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U.S. Department of Agriculture

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service
Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit.

TWO METHODS OF FEEDING LAMBS

An exhibit showing the value of legume hay in the profitable feeding of lambs.

Specifications.

Floor space required - width - - -25 feet
depth - - - 8 feet

Wall space required - - - - - None

Shipping weight - - - - - -1256 lbs.

Electrical requirements, - 110 volt. A. C.
or D. C. current, 150 watts
needed for lights.

TWO METHODS OF FEEDING LAMBS

How It Looks.

In the center of the middle section of the booth is a painted, illuminated picture of a band of sheep of uniform size and age. At each side of this scene, on the adjoining section, is painted a single lamb facing a stock car which will carry it, and others like it, to market when they have been fattened.

One lamb "traveled" to market by way of a legume hay and corn ration while the other lamb "travelled" by way of non-legume hay and corn and when they reached the market it was found that there was considerable difference in their quality, value and profit to the feeder. The cost of feeding, profit, etc., is given in text for both methods of feeding.

Two painted life sized lambs, in the form of cutouts, one finished and the other unfinished representing the results of feeding the two different rations are shown, together with actual samples of the feed with directions for feeding the rations.

What It Tells.

Legume hay is one of the most important essentials for profitable lamb feeding. When it is properly fed with corn to fattening lambs of the right kind it should result in satisfactory profits under the normal market conditions. Non-legume hay (such as timothy and prairie hay) is unsatisfactory for lamb feeding and when fed with corn usually results in very small profits or actual losses.

The exhibit "Two Methods of Feeding Lambs" shows the average results of experiments conducted by the State Experiment Stations of Indiana, Nebraska and Wyoming, in which a ration of legume hay and corn was compared with non-legume hay and corn for lambs averaging an initial weight of about 60 pounds. The average feeding period for these lambs was approximately 80 days during which

time the lambs fed legume hay and corn gained about 25 pounds and those fed non-legume hay and corn gained only 15 pounds.

The "best lamb-fattening ration" in this booth was worked out by Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station at Lafayette, Indiana. This institution has conducted lamb feeding experiments for 15 consecutive years during which time more than 4,000 lambs were fed in testing 40 rations. All conclusions from the results of these lamb-feeding investigations are based on three or more trials. These results prove the following facts:

- (1) Corn is the best grain to feed fattening lambs.
- (2) Corn silage reduces costs.
- (3) Cottonseed meal increases profits.
- (4) A legume hay is essential to most profitable gains.
- (5) The best lamb fattening ration is:
 - Corn, 7 parts
 - Cottonseed meal, 1 part
 - Clover hay
 - Corn silage

In feeding this ration the shelled corn and cottonseed meal should be mixed together and the lambs should be fed all of this mixture that they will clean up by the time they leave the trough. The silage should be fed after the concentrates in amounts that will be cleaned up in about one hour. The lambs should receive all the clover hay they will clean up before the next feeding time. The entire ration should be fed twice daily.

In 1924 Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station fed a carload of range lambs on this ration and upon exhibiting them at the International Live Stock Exposition won first prize for range-bred lambs. The transparency in the central part of this booth shows a photograph of this carload of lambs.

Where To Get Information

For further information on this subject of feeding write to the U. S. Department of Agriculture or Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station, Lafayette, Indiana.